

## CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 26, 2007

The Center of Clayton – OASIS Meeting Room A

### ***The following members were present:***

Alex Berger	Jill Indovino
Brad Bernstein	Rich Yawitz
Lori Elliott	Omri Praiss

### ***Excused/Absent***

Mimi Deem  
Judy Goodman  
Dick Hyde

### **Also Present:**

Patty DeForrest, Director of Parks and Recreation

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes from the February 26 meeting were approved as read.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. DeForrest announced that Mr. Goldberg resigned from his chairman position. She noted the fact that she put together a modified budget summary and everyone should take home a copy to review prior to next month's meeting. Further, Ms. DeForrest mentioned to the Commission that there are a few openings on the Commission. If anyone happens to know someone who is interested they should contact the City Clerk to complete an application in order to expedite the process.

The Tennis Center and the outdoor Aquatic Center will both open in May. The pool will be repainted in April. It is typically painted every two to three years. This year the Competition Pool will be repainted, and next year the dive tank will be painted. The Party Pavilion next to the bleacher area at the pool can be reserved simply by signing up and there is no cost. The addition of the stroller area has been very beneficial and even increased the amount of money we take in for daily fees. The program participants also really enjoy utilizing this entrance. This year we are offering non-resident pool passes and have discontinued selling non-resident daily fees. Mr. Bernstein discussed the fact that at this time the City does not have a reciprocal agreement with Maplewood when Shaw Park Pool is close during the CSP meet. It was noted that people who have outdoor pool memberships are allowed to use the Center of Clayton when the Aquatic Center is closed. Ms. DeForrest noted that this topic could be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

We have many new programs this summer. The Spring / Summer brochure has been mailed to Clayton residents. Approximately 10% of our registrations are taking place online. The Bunny Hop is this Saturday, March 31, and will be held in Shaw Park.

We are selling Platinum Memberships now and this membership allows families to access all City of Clayton facilities, including the ice rink, tennis center, the Center of Clayton and both the indoor and outdoor pool. These memberships are only sold as an annual pass. We have already sold 40 of these memberships and anticipate selling many more now that we are closer to opening the outdoor pool. Those who purchase Platinum Memberships receive about a 3% discount.

Ms. DeForrest will speak to the staff in the athletic department to find out why we do not offer boys volleyball and if it will be feasible to do so.

The Jazz Festival and the Taste of Clayton take place on the same weekend this year. The Jazz Festival will be on June 2 and the Taste of Clayton will take place on June 3. The events were consolidated to one weekend in order to save money. The Jazz Festival lost some of their corporate sponsors. This way we only have to close the fields one weekend instead of two. Also, the Parks and Rec staff will only have to set-up for these events one weekend, as well.

The Hanley House structure report went out to bid and we received 4 submittals. The Hanley House subcommittee will be interviewing all companies and will make a decision in the near future. The historic structure report will evaluate the house and will cost approximately \$20,000.

The Youth Activity Center is scheduled to open on May 1. We are targeting the 7-13 year age range at this time because this is the group of children who will be able to utilize the center without a parent. There will be supervision at all times. Further, there will be programming for children under the age of seven. We received a

\$46,000 grant. The total construction and operating costs for the first six months is \$78,000. The Clayton Parks Foundation, the City of Clayton and the Clayton School District are assisting with the funding of this center.

We are replacing the fence at DeMun Park this year because it is very pointy. Ms. Goodman will discuss changing the name of Alamo Park at our April meeting. Also, the Joint Study Committee presented findings in February that we would save \$5,000,000 if the cities were to merge. This is an incorrect statement so we are still trying to finalize our report.

We went out to bid for concession operations, but did not receive any bids. So this year the concessions operations will still be operated in house. Ms. DeForrest will make sure her staff updates the Commission in May about any changes that will take place with concession operations this year. We are considering opening the ball field concession area as a vending type facility which would be profitable. The reason we discontinued operating that facility was due to a loss in revenue.

The Parks staff is busy doing many projects in Shaw Park near the corporate tent and in the surrounding parks. April 1 is the official day that the all of the parks re-open. The restrooms and water fountains are turned on that day.

### **Budget Report**

Budget summary reports were distributed to the Commission at the end of the meeting. Those who were absent had the budget summaries mailed to them.

### **Ice Rink Update**

The Ice Rink Task Force is completing their marketing analysis. They are going to proceed with repairs to the ice making system to open as an outdoor rink in November 2007. Phase II will consist of looking at ideas related to what the indoor skating rink area could potential be turned into. The task force will look into utilizing the ice rink property for 6 months to a year for various family activities. There are a lot of great ideas being passed around at this point. The task force has decided to not to open the rink as a closed rink because the project would cost between \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000. However, the option of placing a cover on the rink during the day is a possibility. There are systems to make it retractable. Adjusting the size of the rink is not a priority. The cost of Phase I is going to be \$122,000. This cost will allow us to put ice out and have a long term affect on the infrastructure of the surface. It will also bring us open to code. This cost will be incurred in August. It is important to note that over \$800,00 was spent on the rink during the mid-nineties. This is a bit disconcerting because we now have to spend additional funds to get it operating properly again. The cost of fixing the zamboni is not included in the \$122,000. The task force is also looking at the definition of use. There is more discussion about revenue and which groups will utilize the rink and in what capacity.

### **Old Business/New Business**

The Commission needs to replace the Chairperson. The BOA appoints the chairperson. Ms. DeForrest also announced the terms for the current Commission members, and reminded everyone of the openings that are coming up.

Respectfully Submitted By,  
Denise Ucinski